

# Vera Jane

60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Year

Launched at 1200 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1948

She took ages to build, was ordered in January 1946, with her keel laid by June; there followed many delays, excuses and costs rising to a staging £1280! Other than a major refit in 1971 by Michael, a minor one in 2001 by Alastair, 2 masts (I still have the original) 3 engines, several loos, 3 sets of keel bolts but I think, only about 4 suites of sails (4 mains?) she remains much as she ever was!

In the summer of 1948 she sailed round to the Menai Straights, passing Chichester harbour on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. She remained in the Straights until 1954 when she was sailed back to Chichester, arriving on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May after a short passage from Yarmouth, picking mooring No 55 off Itchenor and Bosham Hoe at 1500.

Over these 60 odd years she has taken 4 generations of Shaw's and friends over all many 10's of 1000's of miles, to lots of super places and she has always looked after us; even though we have perhaps tested her ability to do this on a number of occasions!

We welcome friends who have sailed on her with us over those 60 years; cruises to Brittany and beyond and the many suppers down harbour on Saturday nights after racing; to raise a glass with us on Sunday evening on the Club Pontoon!

